

Remarks

Claim 1 is amended herein. Claims 1-4 and 6-8 remain pending in the Application.

Examiner Interview

On June 22, 2004 Agent for Applicant, Joel D. Youngs and Examiner Lee conducted a telephone conference. During the telephone conference Mr. Youngs and Examiner Lee discussed the above-referenced Application and the 102(b) rejection by the Examiner.

During the conference, the differences between the cited art Bostrom et al. (5,856,632) and the features of the Claims of the present Application were discussed. Specifically, that the card cage shielding contactor of Bostrom et al. was not analogous to the filler panel body of the present claimed invention.

Further discussion included the feature of the filler panel body being utilized for enclosing a region of a computer chassis which does not have a printed circuit assembly therein. Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Lee for taking the time for the telephone conference.

Rejection under 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 6-8

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bostrom et al. (5,856,632). Applicant has reviewed Bostrom et al. and respectfully states that Bostrom et al. do not anticipate the present invention for the following rationale.

Applicant respectfully states that amended Claim 1 includes the feature "a filler panel body for enclosing a region of a computer chassis which does not have a printed circuit assembly therein." As shown in the Figures and described in the specification, the filler panel body is a cover utilized for

covering a region/slot of the computer chassis that does not have PCA therein. Therefore, the filler panel body is not placed within the region/slot of the computer chassis, but instead covers the opening of the unused region/slot. Claim 1 has also been amended to include the additional feature of a computer chassis as discussed in the Examiner Interview.

Applicant respectfully disagrees that Bostrom et al. anticipates the feature of Claim 1. As discussed in the Examiner Interview, Applicant understands the card cage shielding contactor of Bostrom et al. to not be analogous to the filler panel body of the present invention. Moreover, as discussed in the Examiner Interview, Applicant understands the blank circuit card bracket of Bostrom et al. to be used to cover the unused openings of the computer chassis.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Bostrom et al. does not anticipate the present claimed invention as recited in Claim 1, and as such, Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully submits that Bostrom et al. does not anticipate the present claimed invention as recited in Claims 2-3 and 6-8 that are dependent on an allowable Independent Claim 1 and that Claims 2-3 and 6-8 recite further features of the present claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully states that Claims 2-3 and 6-8 are allowable as pending from an allowable base Claim.

Rejection under 103(a)

Claim 4

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bostrom et al. Applicant has reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submits that the present invention is not rendered obvious in view of Bostrom et al. for the following rationale.

With respect to Claim 4, Applicant respectfully points out that Claim 4 depends from the allowable Independent Claim 1 and recites further features

of the present claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully states that Claim 4 is allowable as pending from an allowable base Claim.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1-4 and 6-8.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
Wagner, Murabito & Hao LLP

Date: 7/5/04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Wagner, Jr.', is written over a horizontal line.

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